

## ***Design Memorandum No. 08-2003***

TO: Engineering Offices and Divisions  
Districts  
Consulting Engineers

FROM: Mark S. Gaydos, P.E. - Design Engineer

DATE: July 25, 2003

SUBJECT: DESIGN SPEEDS

Design Manual Reference:

Section III-02

— ° — Revision

\_\_\_\_\_ Supplemental

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### **Introduction**

The memorandum provides additional guidance on Design Speeds.

### **Implementation**

The use of this guidance is to be implemented immediately.

### **Background**

New legislation was recently passed to raise the posted speed limit on rural Multi-Lane Divided Roadways to 70 mph and on rural Interstate Roadways to 75 mph. The posted speed limit on 2-lane Roadways will be 65 mph.

Section III-02 of the Design Manual indicates the design speed would generally be 5 mph greater than the posted speed for rural roadways. This policy supercedes that guidance.










The Highway Performance Classification System (HPCS) also provides general guidance on the design speeds. This design memorandum matches the HPCS and also provides additional design guidance on urban roadways and on specially designated speed limits.

### **Guidance**

Design Memorandum No. 01-01 should be deleted.

There are many locations in the Design Manual that refer to design or posted speeds. These are dependent on the type of roadway, or category of improvement that is proposed.

All current references to design or posted speeds in the Design Manual are void and replaced with the following table titled "Design Speed Guidelines."

DESIGN SPEED GUIDELINES <sup>1</sup>			
ROADWAY TYPE	RECONSTRUCTION <sup>2</sup>	3R <sup>3</sup>	PREVENTIVE <sup>3</sup> MAINTENANCE
	Design Speed	Design Speed	Design Speed
<b>Interstate</b>			
Rural	75	75	75
Urban <sup>1,4</sup>	75	75	75
<b>Interregional</b>			
Rural - 4 Lane Divided	70	70	70
Rural - 2 Lane	70	65	65
Urban - 4 Lane Divided <sup>4</sup>	55	55	55
Urban - 4 Lane Undivided <sup>4</sup>	45	45	45
<b>State Corridor</b>			
NHS & Non-NHS, ADT > 2000	70	65	65
Non-NHS, ADT < 2000	65	65	65
<b>District Corridor</b>	65	65	65
<b>District Collector</b>	65	65	65

<sup>1</sup> Director may designate and post special areas of state highways where lower speeds are required by conditions. The design speed for those segments are to be determined during the Project Concept Report process.

<sup>2</sup> Based on anticipated posted speed limits.

<sup>3</sup> Based on anticipated posted speed limits, or the existing posted speed limits, which ever is lower.

<sup>4</sup> Urban design speed and posted speed may vary as required by conditions.

### Questions

Any questions regarding the content or implementation of this memorandum should be referred to Ron Henke, Design Division, 701-328-4445.

### Approved

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Francis G. Ziegler, P.E. - Director, Office of Project Development

7/25/2003  
Date